

Cultural and Historic Affairs Committee
Meeting Minutes
October 14, 2014

The Bethany Beach Cultural and Historic Affairs Committee held a meeting at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 14, 2014, in the Bethany Beach Town Meeting Room, 214 Garfield Parkway, Bethany Beach, DE 19930.

Members present: Carol Olmstead, who presided; Carole Calef; Cathy Davis; Jan Kinsella; Mary Lou McNerney; Margaret Young; Theo Loppatto; Mary Lou Urquhart and Julie Malewski, Events Director/Media Coordinator.

Absent Members: Vicky Drury; Lindsey Good, Administrative Secretary.

Call to Order

Ms. Olmstead called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.

Approval of Minutes from September 9, 2014 meeting

After a couple of changes, Ms. Young made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

Announcements

Ms. Olmstead stated that Maria Johansen from South Bethany's Historical Society said there will be a special event in South Bethany Town Hall on Tuesday, October 21st featuring *The Underground Railroad – Facts and Legends*. The guest speaker is Dr. Clara Small.

Discussion Regarding Possible Cultural Events

The committee agreed to host the following events:

1. **Women Spies in the Civil War:** presented by Tom Ryan. This is a new program, so Bethany would be first to launch it. (There is already buzz in the media about a book that was recently published on the topic. This was featured in the Washington Post and News Journal.) The proposed date is Thursday, November 13th. Ms. Malewski will confirm Tom Ryan's availability. A contract is required.
2. **Learning About Native Plants:** Ms. Kinsella suggested approaching Valerie Cordrey at the East Coast Garden Center, since they already host diverse landscaping events. Proposed date is April 15th. (Easter is April 5th this year so timing has to not interfere with lent and Florida vacations. Ms. Loppatto also suggested contacting Gardeners by the Sea, a group of Master gardeners who have to host speaking engagements in order to continue their club. Ms. Malewski will confirm Valerie's availability.
 - a. **Note:** Ms. Malewski stated that Melinda from the Town's Public Works department mentioned that people often ask her about the plants downtown. She asked Ms. Malewski to help create a brochure/signage identifying the Town's landscaping. If done in time, this could be distributed at the event.

3. **Preview of Oral History DVD:** The committee agreed that a reception to debut the film and honor those featured would be nice. Proposed date is end of April/early May.
4. **Possible future event:** Ms. Olmstead stated that Fort Miles is working hard to turn Ft. Miles into a real museum and suggested hosting an event in support. Dr. Ray would be the speaker. No date was proposed.

Updated Historical Material on Town of Bethany Beach Website

Ms. Olmstead reported that once the Town website is recreated, there will be a dedicated page for the museum and/or CHAC instead of a link to its own website. In the meantime, Ms.

Malewski has updated the current **Historical Houses** page on the Town website as follows:

- Removal of *"A historical marker is in place on this property" for each listing.*
- Removal of properties 48 & 36 North Atlantic Avenue and 9 Pennsylvania
- Removal of the first paragraph under **Overview:** *"If you would like your home displayed..."* That's probably where the 3 houses in number 2 (above) came from.
- Making the entries more consistent - Giving a title to each home and location on the first line below
- Took new photos and updated the ones for Dinker House, Errett Cottage, Addy Sea & Loop Canal
- Added the Seaside Inn marker
- Added the Heritage Trail map
- The Christian Conference Center may be removed since they don't want a historical marker on the property and the original landmark is no longer there.

Report on Town Hall Historical Pictures Project

Most are framed and hung. Label placards are ordered. Ms. Malewski will begin typing descriptions to slide into them and mount under the pictures.

Committee Input Regarding Continuing Projects:

1. **Possible Additional Heritage Trail Markers** - Ms. Olmstead and Ms. Calef offered property addresses for potential markers as follows:

- 105 Hollywood Street
- 41 S. Atlantic
- 122 5th Street
- 99 3rd Street
- 117 3rd Street
- 110 1st Street
- 117 1st Street
- 58 Atlantic Avenue

Ms. Olmstead will check with Alex Alder for clarification. There was a question as to whether or not to change the selection criteria to houses after 1930, but Ms. Young re-stated from a past meeting that there would be too many houses to mark. Ms. Young did express concern that the Drexler Cottage is "in trouble" since it is up for sale. Ms.

Olmstead stated that if a historic home is sold and renovated, the Town will remove its marker.

2. **News Articles** – the project has been put on hold temporarily while Ms. Kinsella tends to an ill family member.
3. **Notecards** – Ms. Olmstead said she got a price on printing the cards from UPS. The cards would feature a sketch on the front and description on the back. Cost would be 50 cents each including envelopes. The committee agreed to producing 2 different packs of 6 for \$5. They could be sold at the museum and at cultural events. Initial order should be 25 packs each as follows:
 - a. Pack 1 = Houses
 - i. Erret Cottage
 - ii. Drexler House
 - iii. Oriole
 - iv. Grant
 - v. Kitt
 - b. Pack 2 = Landmarks
 - i. Journey's End
 - ii. Addy Sea
 - iii. Seaside Inn
 - iv. Lifesaving Station
 - v. Christian Church

Report Regarding Coastal Town Museum Committee Meeting held September 15, 2014

1. Ms. Loppatto said the Coastal Town Museum Committee will be taking a field trip to the Lewes Museum in November to get ideas on how to tell their story in the Evans West House. The towns want to clarify their role in Ocean View's vision.
 - a. They feel they should be an advisory and visionary group for the museum to help determine how the museum should be configured. Ms. Olmstead suggested a timeline of how the coastal towns developed.
 - b. Money is needed to create and sustain the displays. The towns requested a separate line item account within Ocean View's report and a separate bank account. The Ocean View Historical Society board approved this.
 - c. Funds are also being donated by the family of a resident who has passed away.
2. Ms. Loppatto requested input from CHAC for the upcoming meeting on October 20, 2014. Ms. Kinsella suggested including the Loop Canal since before building that visitors had to come by boat from Rehoboth and take a bus from Ocean View to get to Bethany. Ms. Olmstead also suggested the history of Millville and Ocean View morphing into beach towns.

Viewing of Introduction to Oral History DVD

The committee was pleased with how John Apple segmented the video to allow for scrolling through individual interviews and full feature viewing. Ms. Olmstead asked Dan Kenney to produce one DVD for each committee member.

Next Meeting Date

The committee agreed to hold the next meeting on Monday, November 3, 2014 at 2:00 p.m. in order to finalize plans for the Tom Ryan presentation.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 4:05 p.m.